

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A carbon material for a lithium battery, comprising graphite powder having an oxidation initiation temperature of not less than 600°C, a specific surface area of not more than 3 m²/g, an aspect ratio of not more than 6, and a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8 g/cm³,

wherein the graphite powder contains substantially no particles having a particle size of 3 μm or less and 53 μm or more.

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~The A~~ carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein said graphite powder has a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.9 g/cm³~~ comprising graphite powder having an oxidation initiation temperature of not less than 600°C, a specific surface area of not more than 3 m²/g, an aspect ratio of not more than 6, and a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8 g/cm³,

wherein when said powder is put under pressure to give said powder a bulk density of 1.5 g/cm², the specific electrical resistance of said powder along a direction perpendicular to the direction of the pressure is not more than 0.06 Ωcm.

Claim 3 (currently amended): ~~The A~~ carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 1 or 2, consisting of graphite powder having a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8 g/cm³ and an oxidation initiation temperature of not less than 600°C,

wherein when said powder is subject to pressure to give said powder a bulk density of 1.5 g/cm^3 , a specific electrical resistance of said powder along a direction perpendicular to the direction of the pressure is not more than $0.06 \text{ } \Omega\text{cm}$,

wherein the graphite powder contains substantially no particles having a particle size of $3 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ or less and $53 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ or more.

Claim 4 (currently amended): A carbon material for a lithium battery, consisting of graphite powder having a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8 g/cm^3 and an oxidation initiation temperature of not less than 600°C ,

wherein the graphite powder contains substantially no particles having a particle size of $3 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ or less and $53 \text{ } \mu\text{m}$ or more.

Claim 5 (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 4, wherein a specific surface area is not more than $3 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 4 ~~or~~ 5, wherein an aspect ratio is not more than 6.

Claim 7 (currently amended): A carbon material for a lithium battery, comprising graphite powder having a specific surface area of not more than $3 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$ and a tapping bulk density of not less than 0.8 g/cm^3 , wherein when said powder is put under pressure to give said powder a bulk density of 1.5 g/cm^3 , a specific electrical resistance of said powder along a direction perpendicular to the direction of the

pressure is not more than $0.06 \Omega\text{cm}$,

wherein the graphite powder contains substantially no particles having a particle size of $3 \mu\text{m}$ or less and $53 \mu\text{m}$ or more.

Claim 8 (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, wherein the graphite powder has an average particle size of from 8 to $30 \mu\text{m}$.

Claim 9 (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 3, wherein the graphite powder has an average particle size of from 8 to $30 \mu\text{m}$.

Claims 10-13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of 6.745 \AA or less.

Claim 15 (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 3, wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of 6.745 \AA or less.

Claim 16 (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 8, wherein the graphite powder has a Co value of 6.745 \AA or less.

Claim 17 (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 9, wherein the graphite powder has a d_{002} value of 6.745 Å or less.

Claims 18-21 (canceled).

Claim 22 (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

Claim 23 (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 3, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

Claim 24 (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 8, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

Claim 25 (original): The carbon material for a lithium battery as claimed in claim 9, wherein the graphite powder contains boron.

Claim 26 (canceled).

Claim 27 (canceled).

Claim 28 (original): A paste for a negative electrode of a battery, wherein said paste is obtained from the graphite powder as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 as a main material by adding polyvinylidene fluoride powder thereto and kneading.

Claim 29 (original): A paste for a negative electrode of a battery, wherein said paste is obtained from the graphite powder as claimed in claim 3 as a main material by adding polyvinylidene fluoride powder thereto and kneading.

Claim 30 (original): A battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 as a main material.

Claim 31 (original): A battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in claim 3 as a main material.

Claim 32 (original): A lithium battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in one of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 as a main material.

Claim 33 (original): A lithium battery comprising a negative electrode produced from the graphite powder as claimed in claim 3 as a main material.